AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend Paragraph 23 of the original application as published (Page 5 lines 4-19 of the original application as filed) as follows:

A preferred embodiment of the heat-shrinkable package of the present invention is made from a sheet 10 of heat shrinkable film 11 having a first side edge 12a and opposing, second side edge 12b connected by a third side edge 12c and a fourth side edge 12d. First side edges 12a and second 12b are preferably parallel to each other when film 11 is in a long flat planar state. Third side edge 12c and fourth side 12d are preferably parallel to each other when film 11 is in a lay flat planar state. First and second side edges 12a, 12b are also preferably perpendicular to third and fourth side edges 12c, 12d when film 11 is in a lay flat planar state. Film 11 has four corners at the intersections of the four sides with first corner 12ac defined by the junction of first side edge 12a with third side edge 12c; ~~second corner 12b defined by the junction of first side edge 12a with third side edge 12c;~~ second corner 12bc defined by the junction of second side edge 12b with third side edge 12c; third corner 12ad defined by the junction of first side edge 12a with fourth side edge 12d; and fourth corner 12bd defined by the junction of second side edge 12b with fourth side edge 12d. Film 11 has a top surface 13a circumscribed by a perimeter 14 formed by sides 12a, 12c, 12b and 12d with an opposing bottom surface 13b also circumscribed by said perimeter 14. FIG. 1 depicts corner 12ad of film 11 turned upward to reveal said bottom surface 13b.

Please amend Paragraph 26 of the original application as published (Page 7 lines 3-14 of the original application as filed) as follows:

Opposite the closed bag end 21 is a bag ~~mount~~mouth formed by lap sealed film under fourth side edge 12d through which a product (not depicted) may be placed into a product receiving chamber 25 defined by tube member 18, closed bag

end 21 and bag mouth 24. The first bag edge 22 may extend from a first bag end corner 26 to a first bag mouth point 27 and a second bag edge 23 may extend from a second bag end corner 28 to a second bag mouth point 29 such that bag 15 may be collapsed into a lay flat condition having first bag edge 22 and opposing second bag edge 23. In a lay flat condition or a state close to lay flat such as depicted in FIG. 2, bag end 21, bag mouth 24, ~~and~~ connecting first bag edge 22 and second bag edge 23 ~~defines~~define a first bag wall 30 and connected opposing bag wall 31. Tube member 18 has an inner surface 19 and an outer surface 33. The first bag wall 30 has first bag wall first side 30a proximate second side edge 12b and extending to second bag edge 23. The first bag wall 30 also has an opposing first bag wall seamed side 30b proximate first side edge 12a and extending to first bag edge 22.

Please amend Paragraph 27 of the original application as published (Page 7 line 15 – Page 8 line 5 of the original application as filed) as follows:

Preferably, the second seal 20 is provided in a manner such that the first seal 16 is positioned within one of the first and second bag walls 30 and 31, thereby forming a "backseam" of the bag. This provides one seamless bag wall and two seamless bag edges that may include printed images applied to the film before forming bags or after the bag is formed. Additionally, the second seal 20 may take any shape, whether straight or curved, so long as the second seal 20 operates to close the end 21. At least one of the first seal 16 and second seal 20 comprises a peelable seal. "Peelable seal" and like terminology ~~is~~are used herein to refer to a seal, and especially heat seals, which are engineered to be readily peelable without uncontrolled or random tearing or rupturing the packaging materials which may result in premature destruction of the package and /or inadvertent contamination or spillage of the contents of the package. An A peelable seal is one that can be manually peeled apart to open the package at the seal without resort to a knife or other implement to

tear or rupture the package. In the present invention, the peelable seal must have a seal strength sufficient to prevent failure of the seal during the normal heat-shrinking process and further normal handling and transport of the packaged article. The peelable seal strength must also be low enough to permit manual opening of the seal. A peelable seal may have an average peelable seal strength of less than 2 kilograms for a one inch strip or of less than 1.5 kilograms for a one inch strip or of about 500 grams to about 1000 grams for a one inch strip. For example, a peelable first seal may have an average peelable seal strength of less than 2 kilograms for a one inch strip or may have an average peelable seal strength of less than 1.5 kilograms for a one inch strip, and a peelable second seal may have an average peelable seal strength of about 500 to about 1000 grams for a one inch strip. Preferably seal parameters such as choice of materials and sealing conditions will be used to adjust the peelable seal strength to the desired level for the particular package and application.

Please amend Paragraph 55 of the original application as published (Page 19 line 24 – Page 20 line 12 of the original application as filed) as follows:

Referring now to ~~FIG. 12~~FIG. 15, a double bubble (also ~~know~~known as a trapped bubble) process is shown. The polymer blends making up the several layers are coextruded by conveying separate melt streams 211a, 211b, and 211c to the die 230. These polymer melts are joined together and coextruded from annular die 230 as a relatively thick walled multilayered tube 232. The thick walled primary tube 232 leaving the extrusion die is cooled and collapsed by nip rollers 231 and the collapsed primary tube 232 is conveyed by transport rollers 233a and 233b to a reheating zone where tube 232 is then reheated to below the melting point of the layers being oriented and inflated with a trapped fluid, preferably gas, most preferably air, to form a secondary bubble 234 and cooled. The secondary bubble 234 is formed by a fluid

trapped between a first pair of nip rollers 236 at one end of the bubble and a second pair of nip rollers 237 at the opposing end of the bubble. The inflation which radially expands the film provides transverse direction (TD) stretching and orientation. Orientation in the machine direction (MD) is accomplished by adjusting the relative speed and/or size of nip rollers 236 and nip rollers 237 to stretch (draw) the film in the machine direction.

Please amend Paragraph 76 of the original application as published (Page 23 line 16 – Page 24 line 3 of the original application as filed) as follows:

Five identical samples of film are cut 1 inch (2.54 cm) wide and a suitable length for the test equipment e.g. about 5 inches (~~7~~12.7 cm) long with a 1 inch (2.54 cm) wide seal portion centrally and transversely disposed. Opposing end portions of a film sample are secured in opposing clamps in a universal tensile testing instrument. The film is secured in a taut snug fit between the clamps without stretching prior to beginning the test. The test is conducted at an ambient or room temperature (RT) (about 23° C.) test temperature. The instrument is activated to pull the film via the clamps transverse to the seal at a uniform rate of 12.0 inches (30.48 cm) per minute until failure of the film (breakage of film or seal, or delamination and loss of film integrity). The test temperature noted and lbs. force at break are measured and recorded. The test is repeated for four additional samples and the average grams at break reported. A peelable seal strength may be determined by the same test except that one clamp is set to secure the film at its end adjacent the seal so that when the instrument is activated the film is pulled along the seal interface to simulate peeling open the seal. For a fin seal, both seal strength determinations are the same, as the forces are applied in the same direction relative to the seal for a seal strength determination as for a peelable seal strength determination. For a lap

seal, the forces are applied in different directions, and the peelable seal strength may differ from the seal strength.

Please amend Paragraph 90 of the original application as published (Page 26 lines 6-16 of the original application as filed) as follows:

Various tests may be performed on the resultant inventive bags. The gauge thickness will typically be a film thickness of less than 10 mil, and preferably between 1.25 to 5.0 mil. The lap seal should typically have an average seal strength of at least 2 kilograms per inch. However, a peelable lap seal may have an average seal strength of greater than 3 kilograms per inch or even of greater than 6 kilograms per inch. At the same time the lap seal provides this strong seal, it may also have an average peelable seal strength of less than 2 kilograms for a one inch strip or of less then 1.5 kilograms for a one inch strip or of about 500 grams to about 1000 grams for a one inch strip. For example, a peelable lap seal may have an average peelable seal strength of less than 2 kilograms for a one inch strip or may have an average peelable seal strength of less than 1.5 kilograms for a one inch strip. The end seal will typically have an average seal strength of at least 3 kilograms. The bag will also have an average M.D. and T.D. heat shrinkability at 90°C. of at least 20%, and preferably at least 40% in both directions, respectively. This preferred bag will have very good heat shrink percentages which are highly desirable for packaging cuts of fresh red meat and also have extremely good puncture resistance, yet advantageously ~~incorporate~~incorporates a peelable seal heretofore not seen in individual food packaging bags. Thus an economical to produce, heat shrinkable bag, having a peelable seal, puncture resistance and strong end seals is provided having a unique combination of features and commercial advantages previously unknown.